

First Corinthians



A Letter from Paul

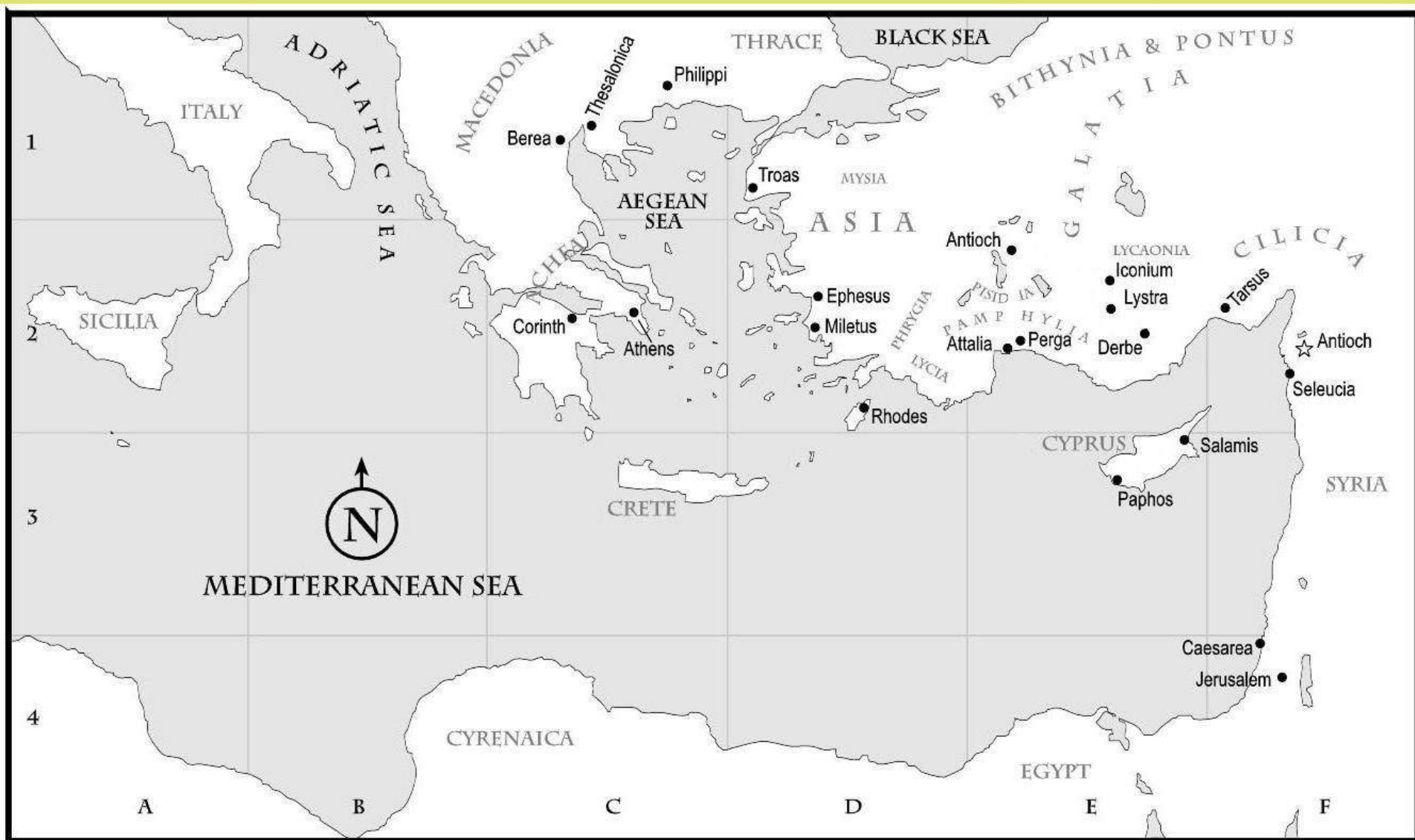
Audience and Purpose

- Written to the church at Corinth
 - Paul started this church on his second missionary journey
 - It was a mixture of Jews and Greeks who had a lot to learn about living for God.
 - The people came from a pagan background which included the worship of Aphrodite (the Greek goddess of love and beauty).

Audience and Purpose

- Corinth
 - It was an important and affluent business center in Greece.
 - It had a population between 600,000 and 700,000 people.
 - It was such an immoral place that the word *Corinthianize* became slang for sexual immorality.


Corinth



Audience and Purpose

- Purpose
 - Paul wrote this letter for two reasons:
 1. To correct problems in the church
 2. To bring unity in the church

Theme

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- Believers are the temple of God and his Spirit lives in them.
 - Theme verse
 - 1 Cor. 3:16—Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?

Characteristics



- **Holy Spirit**—Only Acts contains more about the Holy Spirit than this letter.
- **Wisdom & foolishness**—Paul says that God's way of doing things is not the same as the world's way and it is better.

Characteristics

- **The Body**—The church is made up of many different kinds of people and everyone is important.



Teachings



- **Church discipline**—A church's leadership is responsible to deal with trouble in the church.
- **Sexual morality**
- **Communion**—called *The Lord's Supper*.
 - It looks back to the Passover
 - It looks forward to Jesus' return.

Teachings



- **Freedom**—We will not always agree on every issue, but we must not cause harm to others in the church.
- **Love**—the greatest gift of all.

Teachings



- **Spiritual gifts**

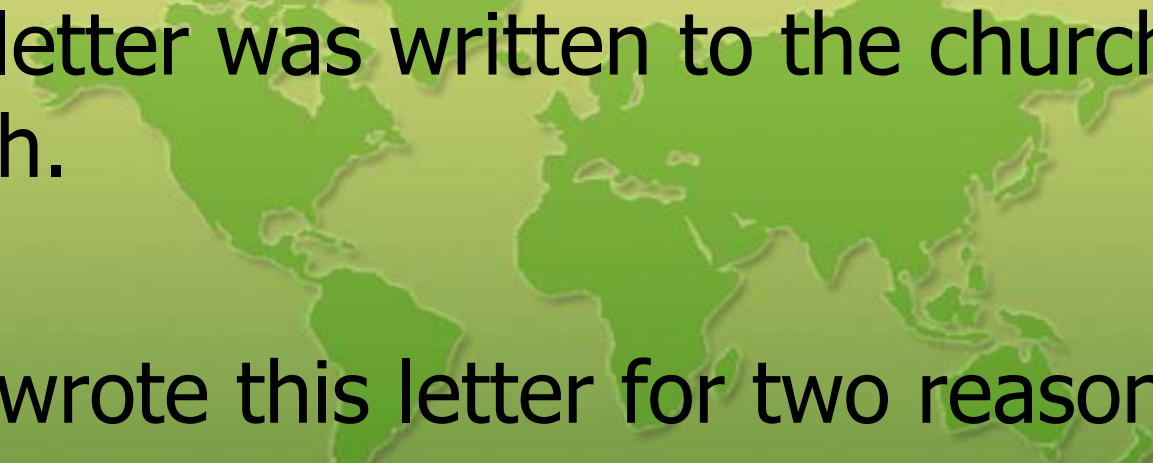
- They are given by God to build up and strengthen the church.
- Every Christian is given at least one gift.
- No person is given all the gifts.

Second Corinthians



Another letter from Paul

Audience and Purpose

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- This letter was written to the church at Corinth.
 - Paul wrote this letter for two reasons:
 1. To express gladness for how his first letter was received
 2. To defend his apostleship

Theme



Theme—God comforts us

Theme verses

2 Cor. 1:3-4—He comes alongside us when we go through hard times, and before you know it, he brings us alongside someone else who is going through hard times so that we can be there for that person just as God was there for us.

Characteristics

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- **Comfort**
 - **Suffering**—Paul tells about his own suffering
 - **Generosity**—Paul wanted the Corinthians to help in the offering for the Christians in Jerusalem.

Characteristics

– **Grace**



People & Teachings

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- **People**—False apostles
 - **Teachings**
 - The afterlife—We will all be judged for how we lived our lives.
 - Grace—God's grace gives us strength when we have lost our own.